

**Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
August 8, 2023
Minutes**

The meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. by Msgr. Gilles with a prayer.

Members Present: Kevin Decker, Deacon Tom Skemp, Nick Harding, Lauren Harding, Mari Erickson, Betty Tauscher, Nancy Rose, Tammy Becker, Chuck Whalen and Lynne Ostervich.

Absent: Joseph Nduka and Pat Weinberger. Excused: Olivia Knapik, Mike Knapik

Msgr. Gilles turned the meeting over to Kevin Decker who has been appointed as Chairman of the Council.

The minutes from the June 13, 2023 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Youth Ministry

Samuel Obert assists in the La Crosse area Religious Ed Program, working with the middle and high school age students. His office is located at MMOC. Samuel is also branching out into youth ministry and is attending staff meetings at Cathedral. A hiking trip is planned in August for the middle school students and there will also be something coming up for the high school students.

Samson Society Check-in Group

There is no update at this time. This is an excellent concept but may tie into the Missionary Discipleship effort.

Inspired by the Spirit Campaign

Cathedral Parish reached 156% of our goal. The campaign will still be open to take pledges until June 30, 2028. The Diocesan Appeal will also be back in a few months.

Structure and Relationship of Committees in Relationship to the General Life of the Parish

The Pastoral Council is a consultative authority. Team Renewal meets as often as weekly and keeps things driving forward. Further discussion on the relationship of Pastoral Council and Team Renewal has been tabled.

New Business:

Any Best Practices We can Implement?

Deacon Tom Skemp addressed the situation of the homeless and hungry in La Crosse. Five years ago, every day of the week, there was a church serving dinner to the homeless and hungry. That is no longer the case. Cathedral collects food for WAFER but is anything posted about this? Cathedral also makes a monthly \$500 donation to WAFER. Kevin is currently working with other churches to

have a place where people can sit down and have a meal. He has been asked about the use of Cathedral as the place. Kevin is checking into how this would unfold. Other churches would help as well. This is currently in the discussion stage.

Nominees for Parish Pastoral Council Elections

Msgr. Gilles was given a list of 19 possible nominees from the council. Msgr. will consider these names and narrow the list down to eight. If we have eight nominees and elect four we will have a balance in our elected/appointed council members. Msgr. is looking for people with experience and possibly people with middle school age or younger children to balance out the council.

Update on Discussion on a Parish Picnic

The Beacon of Light Picnic will be held in the Cathedral parking lot on Sunday, September 10. Kevin Decker is coordinating the planning of the picnic. We will have a pig roast, euchre, corn hole, music, a cake auction, raffles, and games for the kids. Everyone in the parish is invited. We have approximately \$3,000 in prizes for the raffle. Bishop Callahan may be celebrating the 10:00 Mass.

Update on Undercroft Kitchen

This project needs a committee that will oversee the cleaning out and organizing of the kitchen. Currently the kitchen is left in disarray. Items are not returned to the proper place and some items that don't belong in the kitchen are left there.

“Kitchen Czar”

Ruth Wettstein has volunteered to oversee the kitchen. We may implement a plan that requires a monetary deposit to use the hall and the kitchen. The people in charge of the event will be given a check list of rules for the use of the kitchen. If the kitchen and hall are in acceptable condition after the event, the deposit will be refunded.

Policies and Fees on the Use of the Undercroft

Currently, the fee charged for the use of the hall and kitchen for a funeral luncheon is \$150.00.

Reports:

Finance Council

The year-end financial statement will be in the bulletin in the next couple of weeks. 22% of our operating budget is covered by four different generous endowments that were made to Cathedral.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

The meeting was closed at 7:00 p.m. by Msgr. Gilles with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Ostervich